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291 ankles. The gown of a man is shorter behind, about the same length as in front. In the winter time there may be worn a long gown woven of dark brown wool, or a goatskin coat. In cold weather the hair of this coat is turned inside, and in rainy weather it is turned outside. This skin coat is sleeveless. Both men and women wear instead of hats turbans of white cotton cloth bought in the markets, those of the men and the women are folded differently.

[164] Poor people who have insufficient clothes suffer from the cold in winter time. Bad colds are frequent, and sometimes colds develop into pneumonia

The puttees are made of white wool. In the vicinity of Lung Ch'i Chai women wear red bands around the puttees about half way between the ankles and the knees. In the region of Ts'a To a dark band is worn.

The best linen gowns of the men and the women have borders of blue cloth around the neck and down to the waist on which flowers are embroidered in white.

Woven belts are worn. Generally these are of white hemp cloth, but near Wen Ch'uan and Li Fan the woven belts are varicolored [171] and ornamented with beautiful geometric patterns The designs for these belts have apparently been borrowed from the Jia Rung and the Wa Ssu, for in other parts of the Ch'iang region they occur rarely if at all, and they are very common among the Jia Rung and the Wa Ssu.

7. Tools, Implements and Utensils.

412 Most of the tools and implements closely resemble those of the Chinese. The hoe is wide flat, and thick, and its handle is about four feet long. A very useful implement is the thick iron sickle which serves to cut both wood and grass. Their axes are heavier and clumsier than foreign axes. As has been stated before, the loom consists of several pieces of wood, and the spindle is simply a stick of wood around which the thread or yarn has been wound.

The plow differs from that of the Chinese. The handle is shorter so that the plowman stoops over and pushes down when he plows, lifting the plow out of the ground when he turns around. The long beam is tied to the yoke, which is little more than a pole and is tied to the shoulders of two cows or oxen. The plowman sings

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as he plows, and it is asserted that the animals cease pulling when the plowman stops singing. 412

In every home there is a square hole in the ground filled with dirt and ashes. This is a very simple stove, and probably has been used for centuries. Similar stoves are found in the temples in or near the sacred groves. In this square there is often an iron stove that consists of a circle about three feet in diameter resting on three iron legs equal distances apart. There are three iron pieces extending from these three legs towards the center, but not meeting. These three pieces hold the cooking vessel above the fire. The writer has seen similar iron stoves among the Lolos of the Ningyuan valley. Probably the ancient form of this stove was three pieces of stone chipped into triangles so that if placed equal distances apart one part of each stone can serve as a leg, and the other in the center hold up the cooking vessel. The stoves in the temples in and near the sacred groves consist of three such stones each. In many homes there are now typical Chinese stoves made of stones, lime, and clay, with two or three fire-holes over which iron kos or cooking vessels can be placed. There are no chimneys, and the smoke goes back out of the stove into the room. In the ko food is boiled fried, and baked. Large [252] wooden dippers are used to pour in and dip out water and other liquids, and iron dippers and ladels are used to stir the hot food, turn it over, or dip it out.

Ladders are generally trees in which large notches have been cut, a type of ladder that is widely used in the highlands of west China. 417

The walls of the Ch'iang homes are innocent of any pictures that might beautify them, and are blackened with smoke from [532] incense, candles, lamps, and fires.

IV. Social Cutoms.

1. Social Life

The Ch'iang lead a simple social life. There are no theatricals excepting those given in the Chinese cities and villlages. There are no social dances excepting near Chiu Tzu T'un. There is a taboo against using the funeral dance at any other time. One is tempted to conclude that the Ch'iang do not know how to play. The playthings of the children are often pebbles or broken tiles. When at leisure the 517